

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

August 30, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Baldwin: Jerilyn Goodman 608-251-8737; Kohl: Lynn Becker 202-224-5653;  
Feingold: Zach Lowe 202-224-5253; Kind: Stephanie Lundberg 202-225-5506

## **WI Delegation Supports Request for Federal Aid**

The Wisconsin Congressional delegation today sent a letter to President Bush supporting Governor Jim Doyle's request that he declare a major disaster for the State of Wisconsin as a result of the severe storms and tornadoes that occurred on August 18.

Nine Wisconsin counties reported damages as a result of the storms with Vernon, Richland, and Dane affected most seriously. In their letter to the President, the Members noted that more than 400 homes were damaged and many of those destroyed, businesses have been affected, and significant damage has occurred to public facilities, including municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives. "In addition," they wrote, "the agriculture sector, which is of great importance to Wisconsin, has also suffered great losses. Devastating crop losses, as well as dozens of barns, silos, and other farm buildings being damaged or destroyed, have been reported."

"I hope the President responds quickly to this request for federal aid to Wisconsin. Families in the affected areas are dealing not only with the physical and financial losses of the storms, but with the emotional trauma, as well. Federal aid will assist state, county and local governments in the rebuilding process," said Rep. Baldwin.

"As the storm clean up has gotten underway, we have a clearer picture of the wide swath of destruction the tornadoes left in their wake. The hardest-hit communities are in desperate need of resources to help with the recovery, and we hope that federal assistance will be forthcoming," Sen. Kohl said.

"The effects of the recent tornadoes in Southern Wisconsin are absolutely devastating," Feingold said. "I will do all I can at the federal level to support Governor Doyle's request for aid so those in the Stoughton and Viola areas affected by this disaster can receive their much needed relief."

"In the aftermath of a natural disaster such as the string of tornadoes and severe storms that swept through southern Wisconsin just a week and a half ago, it is critical for communities and their citizens to support each other and work together in order to rebuild what has been lost or destroyed," stated Rep. Ron Kind, who represents Vernon and Richland counties. "Emergency responders, volunteer aid workers, and businesses from around the state have made extraordinary efforts in this spirit, but there is only so much that they alone can do. We need our American community to come to our assistance as well, and so we ask President Bush to approve Governor Doyle's request and deliver the badly needed FEMA aid to the state."

The letter, authored by Rep. Baldwin, was also signed by Senators Kohl and Feingold, and Reps. Kind, Obey, Moore, Ryan, Sensenbrenner, Petri, and Green.

###